



# LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION COMMISSION

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## LEEC eNewsletter

### LEEC NEWS

#### 2015 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION STATE SYMPOSIUM NEARS

The 2015 Environmental Education State Symposium is just around the corner. The February 27-28, 2015 event will be packed full of informative, hands-on sessions aimed to help formal and non-formal educators incorporate the latest in environmental education information and techniques into their curriculum. Attendees have the opportunity to attend one of five day-long short courses on Friday Feb. 27, and choose from among a variety of hour-long concurrent sessions on Saturday the 28th. Highlights include a Friday bug-tasting mixer sponsored by the Audubon Institute, door prizes, exhibitors with special emphasis on environmental education materials, networking with other environmental educators, and updates on statewide environmental education programs. Attendees can earn up to 12 CLUs.



Hands-on sessions feature grade-level-based activities that teachers can implement in their own classrooms.

Don't wait too late. Early bird registration is just \$35 for the conference and \$10 for the short course. Find more information at the symposium website, <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/louisiana-environmental-education-symposium>.

### LEEC NEWS

#### REGISTER YOUR TEAM FOR LOUISIANA ENVIROTHON 2015

Registration is open now for the May 14, 2015 Louisiana Envirothon, an environmental problem-solving competition for students in grades 6-12. Teams train and compete by demonstrating their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management. The competition focuses on five natural resource areas: soils and land use, aquatic resources, forestry, wildlife, and a current environmental issue.

Find more information at [www.deq.louisiana.gov/envirothon](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/envirothon). Download the flyer [here](#) and the rules, regulations and registration form [here](#).



2014 Louisiana Envirothon winners: Baton Rouge High Alpha Team.

## **AWARDS, GRANTS AND CONTESTS**

### ***DUPONT CHALLENGE SCIENCE WRITING COMPETITION***

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to submit their essays before January 31, 2015 for a chance to win the DuPont Challenge. Awards are available for sponsoring teachers, too. Find out more [here](#). The entry form can be found at <http://thechallenge.dupont.com/essay/entryform/>.

### ***YOUTH LEARNING AS CITIZEN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS***

Teachers working with youth to do environmental citizen science or student research projects are invited to submit proposals for funding and/or equipment/materials to help their efforts. Implementation Grants will be made in response to proposals up to \$1,000. Grant proposals should be submitted by email to [grants@ylaces.org](mailto:grants@ylaces.org).

Find more information at [http://ylaces.org/?page\\_id=94](http://ylaces.org/?page_id=94).

### ***FUND FOR TEACHERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS***

Fund for Teachers provides educators, possessing a broad vision of what it means to teach and learn, the resources needed to pursue self-designed professional learning experiences. FFT grants are used for an unlimited variety of projects. Next deadline is January 29, 2015. Visit <http://www.fundforteachers.org/>.

### ***CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS AWARDS***

The Christopher Columbus Awards is a national, community-based science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) program for middle school students. The program challenges the students to work in teams of three to four, with an adult coach, to identify a problem in their community and apply the scientific method to create an innovative solution to that problem.

Eight finalist teams and their coaches will participate in the National Championship Event and compete for valuable scholarships and the Columbus Foundation Community Grant, plus a \$200 development grant to further refine their idea. Find out more at <http://www.christophercolumbusawards.com/>

## **FEBRUARY 7 NEW ORLEANS "GIVE A WHOOP!" WORKSHOP**

Learn about the Whooping Crane reintroduction program and the crane's amazing journey back from the brink of extinction! February 7, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 5500 Paris Avenue, New Orleans. See details [here](#).

## **LAGNIAPPE**

### ***ENGAGING (URBAN) YOUTH IN OUTDOOR EDUCATION WEBINAR***

Students are more disconnected from being outside than ever before which presents additional challenges to the outdoor educator. Join field educator Keith Williams for an hour-long webinar on January 13, 2015 for theory and techniques to engage students in the outdoors.

Register for this webinar and many more at the Green Teacher website <http://greenteacher.com/webinars/>.

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